



NEWS RELEASE

Matthew D. Orwig
United States Attorney
Eastern District of Texas

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: May 3, 2006

Contact: Davilyn Brackin
Public Information Officer
(409) 839-2538 office
(409) 553-9881 cell

MARSHALL MAN GUILTY OF TAX FRAUD

(Tyler, TX) United States Attorney Matthew D. Orwig announced today that a 42-year-old Marshall man has pleaded guilty to tax evasion in the Eastern District of Texas. **STEVEN J. WARD** entered his guilty plea today before United States Magistrate Judge John Ward.

"It is the obligation of every taxpayer to accurately report their earnings and pay their taxes," stated U.S. Attorney Orwig. "When taxpayers fail to pay their share, it puts an unfair burden on those who play by the rules and follow the law."

According to information presented in court, Ward knowingly understated his income for the 2001, 2002, 2003, and 2004 tax years. Ward admitted that over the four year period, he failed to report approximately \$80,000 in income in an attempt to keep from paying federal income taxes on that income.

"Today's court action sends a message that IRS Criminal Investigation is vigilant in making sure everyone pays their fair share of taxes," said Erick Martinez, Special Agent in Charge of the IRS-CID Dallas Field office. Martinez continued, "There are consequences to disregarding the tax laws of this country and a federal conviction is one of them."

Ward could receive up to three years in federal prison and a fine of up to \$100,000 for each count. A sentencing date has not been set.

The Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigation Division investigated this case. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Jim Middleton and Arnold Spencer.

###